



Cordell Warr, suffering a broken leg, dangles from a rope as rescuers at top and bottom lower him.

## BRIDAL VEIL FALLS

# Climber injured when ice pillar breaks loose

*Other ice scalers lower man to county rescue team.*

**By Dennis Romboy** 2-2-93  
Deseret News staff writer

**BRIDAL VEIL FALLS** — The Stairway to Heaven proved treacherous for a Park City man who was injured when the gigantic pillar of ice he was climbing broke loose from the rocky mountainside Mon-

day afternoon.

The rumbling ice carried Cordell S. Warr 50 feet to a tier of snow below. He suffered a broken leg and was in stable condition at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center Tuesday morning. Warr, 24, was driving a piton into the ice near the top of the estimated 65-foot-long pillar when it crashed down about 3 p.m. The massive icicle was about three feet in diame-

ter. It was about two-thirds of the way to the summit.

Three climbers and the Utah County Search and Rescue team brought Warr off the mountain about 6 p.m.

John Rogers, who was climbing nearby, heard the ice roaring down the mountain. "It was a very large piece of ice," he said. "It was scary." An ice chunk, which Rog-

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wrote Martha Clarke, director of publicity for the book's publisher, Prentice Hall General Reference.

Vernal Mayor Leonard Heeney jokingly says he was surprised to find his city on the list.

"It's a surprise to me — I thought it was supposed to be number one," he said. Instead, it was tied for 48th.

What's special about Vernal? "The people's attitude, and the business people's attitude, and just everybody's way they think about things around here," he said. "Kind of like the Marine Corps, we've got an esprit de corps here that most cities don't have."

"We're about 41 miles from Flaming Gorge (National Recreation Area), which is a beautiful drive up the Manila highway," he said. The highway, Heeney quickly adds, is one of the state's official scenic byways.

"We've got a new city office and a new fire station. We're building another nine holes for a golf course, so we'll have an 18-hole golf course for the summer," he added.

The Western Park stages rodeos in the arena, which has an events surface 240 feet by 100 feet, not counting the seating.

Brad L. Wallis, who is on the board of the Dinosaur Nature Association, serving nearby Dinosaur National Monument, moved to Vernal after living in California for 16 years.

"I really appreciate the difference that Vernal offers in terms of lifestyle," he said. "Our crime rate is very low."

"You can go 20 miles north of town and be in the mountains, or 20 miles south of town and be down in the red-rock type of scenery. And with the fishing along the Green River, and whitewater rafting, there's a lot of opportunities for outdoor activity."

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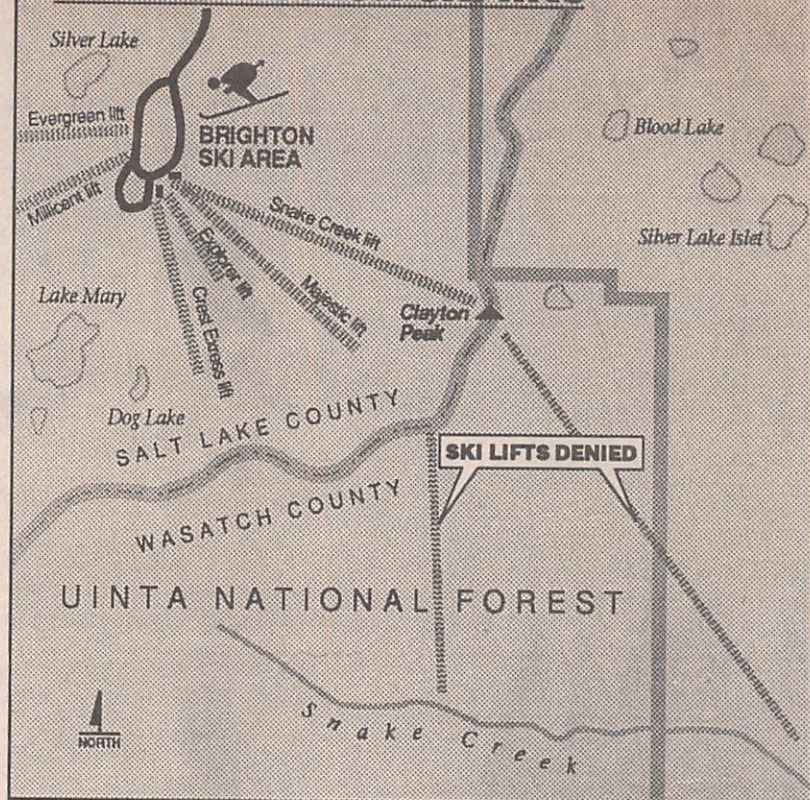
## PICK YOUR CARD, PLACE YOUR AD



- Incentives for job creation.
- Creation of a statewide economic development agency.
- Adoption of a formal policy of

ing authority to help new and expanding companies. In short, it sounds a lot like an economic development tool Utah uses: redevelopment agencies.

## Trans-Wasatch ski lifts



## SKI

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said Midway Mayor Reed Bezzant, who wondered whether the lifts would spell the beginning of the end for Midway's tranquil pace of life. The mayor said whatever jobs the development created would probably not pay well and that an increase in tourist traffic could place a heavy tax burden on local residents.

"I'm mighty suspicious," added 80-year-old resident Dorse Oman. "I don't see a single advantage."

Brighton representatives said the resort's parent company, Boyne Resorts USA, would settle for an arrangement denying skier access to the lifts from the Heber side of the mountain range.

But local resident George Hansen, who said he represented hundreds of members of a group called the Snake Creek Preservation Society, said approval of even limited development would crack a door that eventually would be thrown wide open.

The ski industry in Big and Little Cottonwood canyons has sought for years to find a way to bring vacationers from Park City to its slopes, approachable now only by driving some 50 miles in a circuitous route through suburban Salt Lake.

Most who spoke at Monday's hearing, attended by nearly 100 people, were against the project, but a few favored it.

Francis Smith, a Heber Valley Chamber of Commerce representative, said the development would benefit the area, and lambasted the opposition for what he said was its "vigilantism," a charge Hansen angrily denied.

William C. Sawyer, a Boston lawyer representing one of the landowners who would've profited from the proposal, said the property in question "will be sold" and developed sooner or later, though he did not say what development interest besides a ski resort might buy so rugged and remote a locale.

Opponents said the proposed lifts would damage the idyllic mountain views from Midway and that area water quality and a 300-year-old stand of trees might also be threatened.

Randy Doyle, area manager of Brighton, said after the hearing that criticism of the project was unfounded because the proposal posed no environmental threat.

"Change is hard," said Doyle. "People don't like change."

Last year, the Midway City Council unanimously passed a resolution against the project and the Summit County Commission voted 2-1 against it.

## FALL

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Warr's climbing partner, Michael Ruth, 31, also of Park City, was securing ropes for Warr but managed to elude the splintering ice. Ruth began lowering Warr

members of the county search and rescue team to stay put, the climbers continued to use ropes to lower Warr over the ice to the next snow-covered ledge. The rescue team feared moving the injured man would aggravate his injuries. One rescuer said Warr looked like a "rag doll" coming down the mountain.

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# FALL

*Continued from B1*

ers described as the "size of a Subaru," shattered as it slid down.

Warr's climbing partner, Michael Ruth, 31, also of Park City, was securing ropes for Warr but managed to elude the splintering ice. Ruth began lowering Warr down the ice with ropes when two other climbers arrived to ascend the mountainside just west of Bridal Veil Falls. It's known as the Stairway to Heaven because it resembles an ice- and snow-covered staircase.

Doug Byerly and Mike Pennings, both of Alta, saw Ruth lowering the injured man and climbed the icy face to help.

"We were going to climb it anyway," Byerly said. "We helped lower him down, but he had to kind of guide himself." Warr never lost consciousness.

Despite repeated warnings from

members of the county search and rescue team to stay put, the climbers continued to use ropes to lower Warr over the ice to the next snow-covered ledge. The rescue team feared moving the injured man would aggravate his injuries. One rescuer said Warr looked like a "rag doll" coming down the mountain.

"If we'd listened to them, we'd still be up there right now," Pennings said.

Meanwhile, 24 members of the search and rescue team and three other climbers in the area carried a basket up the mountain in which to place Warr. Rescuers reached Warr at the bottom of the first level of ice. They slowly carried him down a snow trail to an ambulance.

Bridal Veil Falls, one of the nation's most well-known ice climbing areas, was the site of climbing demonstration by hiking gear vendors this past weekend.